

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, MT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN VIEWS ON MALTA

1. ITALIAN DCM TAMAGNINI CALLED ON DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON MALTA AS SEEN BY ITALY:
2. MINTOFF HAS SUBMITTED TO ITALY AND FRANCE, AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES A PROPOSAL FOR MULTILATERAL GUARANTEES ON MALTA'S NEUTRALITY OR MULTILATERAL RECOGNITION OF MALTA'S POSITION AS A NONALIGNED COUNTRY. THE LIST OF GUARANTORS MIGHT INCLUDE SPAIN, THE FRG, GREECE, LIBYA AND ALGERIA. THE ITALIANS HAVE INFORMED OTHER EC COUNTRIES OF THE PROPOSAL.
3. IN A NOVEMBER 27 MEETING WITH MINTOFF IN ROME, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE IS ONE OF WILLINGNESS TO

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ACKNOWLEDGE MALTA'S STATUS AND ITS POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND NONALIGNMENT. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS OR A SERIES OF SEPARATE POLITICAL STATEMENTS BY MALTA AND EACH OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED. IT IS UP TO MALTA TO MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING

ITS STATUS AND POLICY AFTER 1979.

4. AS FOR MALTA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE, THE GOI CONFIRMED ITS INTENTS TO CONTINUE ITS LONGSTANDING BILATERAL ECONOMIC INITIATIVES. -

5. THE ITALIAN EMBASSIES IN ALGIERS AND TRIPOLI HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO OBTAIN SOME INDICATION OF ALGERIA'S AND LIBYA'S POSITION ON MINTOFF'S PROPOSAL AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE UP THIS OR OTHER PROPOSALS. THE ITALIANS ALSO ARE INQUIRING IN TUNIS IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT FRENCH SOUNDINGS THERE.
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